

seeds and powder during the last one year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check and reduce the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). The retail prices of raw coffee and coffee powder sold through the Promotional Units of the Coffee Board used to be fixed at Minimum Release Price of Coffee plus Rs. 5/- towards overhead expenses. Those prices were much lower than local market prices. Considering the gap between the retail prices in the Promotional Units and the market and also to avoid complaints of diversion of coffee because of the price differential, the coffee Board decided to adopt a new formula in pricing. The new formula adopted is to fix the selling prices on the basis of average auction prices of the previous month plus Rs.5/- per kg. towards overheads. The prices currently existing in these Units are thus fixed on this formula and were revised during the last one year. The prices are reviewed on quarterly basis. As even the revised sale price is lower than the market prices of equivalent grades of coffee, there is little scope to reduce the price.

[Translation]

Investment by LIC in Bihar

1768. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and locations of divisional Offices of Life Insurance Corporation in Bihar at present;

(b) the total amount of turnover made in Bihar by these offices during the last three years; and

(c) the total amount invested so far in the various schemes of Bihar from the amount deposited therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) There are at present 5 Divisional Offices in Bihar at Bhagalpur, Muzaffarpur, Jamshedpur, Patna and Hazaribagh.

(b) The turnover by the four Divisions (established upto 1990-91) during the last three years is as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	No. of Polices	Sum Assured
1988-89	2,89,078	954.02
1989-90	3,73,055	1355.77
1990-91	4,22,989	1615.98

(c) The total amount invested during the last three years by LIC in the State of Bihar in various socially oriented schemes is as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

Scheme	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91
1. State Govt. securities & Govt. guaranteed marketable securities	24.50	29.23	29.29

(Rs. in crores)

<i>Scheme</i>	<i>1988-89</i>	<i>1989-90</i>	<i>1990-91</i>
2. <i>Loans to:-</i>			
(i) State Govt. for Social Housing Schemes (as per Planning Commission allocation)	1.37	-	-
(ii) State Electricity Board (as per Planning Commission allocation)	14.89	18.32	20.00
(iii) Apex Co-op. Housing Finance Society	7.50	5.00	6.00
3. Investments in Private Corporate Sector	22.81	55.28	8.51
Total	71.07	107.83	63.80

*[English]***D.T.C. Buses**

1769. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the average amount incurred by the Delhi Transport Corporation per kilometer for running DTC buses;

(b) the amount paid to the private bus operators per kilometer by the DTC under the KM Scheme; and

(c) the average number of persons employed by the DTC per vehicle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Delhi Transport Corporation incurred an amount of Rs. 11.99 per kilometer as on January,

1992 (including interest and depreciation charges).

(b) The kilometer-age scheme of operation of private buses was discontinued since March, 88, and hence no payment on kilometer basis is being paid to private bus operators since then.

(c) As on 31-1-1992 the average number of persons employed by DTC per vehicle was 9.35.

Finalisation of Annual Trade Agreements

1770. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to finalise annual trade agreements for 1992 with some foreign countries;

(b) whether modalities of trade have been finalised;